

Introduced by Senator Chesbro

January 13, 2006

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 70—Relative to Lung Cancer Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 70, as introduced, Chesbro. Lung Cancer Awareness Month.

This measure would declare the month of November to annually be Lung Cancer Awareness Month and would encourage public officials and citizens to observe the month with appropriate activities and programs.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths
2 in both men and women in California, the United States, and the
3 world, this year killing more Americans than the next six cancers
4 combined, including breast, prostate, colon, liver, kidney, and
5 melanoma cancers; and
6 WHEREAS, Approximately 172,570 Americans will be
7 diagnosed with lung cancer, and 163,510 Americans will be lost
8 to lung cancer in 2005, including an estimated 14,350
9 Californians; and
10 WHEREAS, Most persons are diagnosed with lung cancer at
11 an advanced stage due to the failure to recognize early
12 symptoms, such as chronic cough, hoarseness, coughing up
13 blood, weight loss and loss of appetite, shortness of breath, fever
14 without a known reason, wheezing, repeated bouts of bronchitis
15 or pneumonia, and chest pain; and

1 WHEREAS, There is currently no standard screening for early
2 detection of lung cancer that greatly improves the survival rate;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, The majority of new cases of lung cancer each
5 year are in former smokers or persons who have never smoked;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Although there is a strong link between tobacco
8 and lung cancer, there is a critical need for further research to
9 understand the complex interrelationship of genetic, molecular,
10 and other biologic processes to explain the development of lung
11 cancer in those who have never smoked and the failure of the
12 majority of heavy smokers to develop the disease; and

13 WHEREAS, Lung cancer research has been chronically
14 underfunded in proportion to its public health impact resulting in
15 a five-year survival rate, which has remained relatively
16 unchanged over the last 30 years, while the survival rate for most
17 other cancers has improved significantly; and

18 WHEREAS, A large portion of tobacco-related funding is used
19 for purposes other than that of lung cancer research, yet lung
20 cancer funding from both public and private sources is negatively
21 impacted by its association with smoking; and

22 WHEREAS, In order to build awareness and save lives, the
23 Lung Cancer Alliance, a national patient advocacy group for lung
24 cancer dedicated to helping build awareness of this disease, has
25 proclaimed November as Lung Cancer Awareness Month; and

26 WHEREAS, It is only fitting and proper for the State of
27 California, which has been a leader in antismoking legislation, to
28 join the nation in designating November as Lung Cancer
29 Awareness Month so that through better education and an
30 increased attention to funding priorities, more cases of lung
31 cancer may be found in the early stage, leading to the chance of
32 long-term survival rate as high as 85 percent, and more options
33 are available for treatment of the disease at all stages; now,
34 therefore, be it

35 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
36 *thereof concurring,* That the month of November is annually
37 designated Lung Cancer Awareness Month in the State of
38 California and that public officials and the citizens of California
39 are encouraged to observe the month with appropriate activities
40 and programs; and be it further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
- 2 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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